BE×BOY COMICS

BBC

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真空融接

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BIBLOS

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定価：本体562円＋税

雑誌54438-14

ビブロス

「アレクシは僕に依存症だからね」お互いなしでは生きられない不思議体質の少年達が贈る、ちょっぴりやっかいな（？）寄宿舎ストーリー。『真空融接』という名の呼吸のように自然な恋のバイブルは、インディーズで高評価の著者の初商業作品です★

真空融接

sinkuyusetsu

びっけ
BIKKE

真空融接 1章 3
真空融接 2章 31
真空融接 3章 71
真空融接 4章 133
真空融接 EXTRA 175

Shinkuu Yusetsu
-Hollow Fusion-
真空融接
しんくうゆうせつ
◆1章◆

WAKE UP RAEL
MM...
I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME THEN.
NOT ENOUGH FOR ME
WE'LL BE LATE FOR CLASS IN A FEW MORE MINUTES
I MIGHT BE AWAKE BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN BRUSHED MY TEETH YET....

He isn't my boyfriend or even someone I have some special feelings for
Our kisses don't have anything to do with stuff like that
In the mornings, you have to make sure to charge for a full 30 seconds.
We do this because we were the partners chosen for one another
HURRY UP AND GET READY FOR CLASS

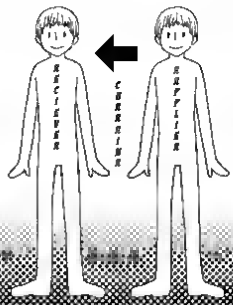
Sets are made of two people in the same generation with matching wavelengths

One person acts as the supplier The other as the receiver

Partnerships are formed around when you turn three or four The doctors decide who gets paired together

In the country every person has to be matched up with a partner

I usually say it's best to think of it like a machine recharging its batteries.



This power can't be made anywhere other than inside a supplier's own body... So for the receivers we suppliers are completely indispensable

And in the same way, it is imperative for a supplier that a receiver accept some of the power generated within their body.

It is impossible for a receiver to continue to live without periodically being given power from the supplier

And that power is always transferred through the two partners' lips.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? EVERYONE DOES IT.
SOME PEOPLE CAN BE SO INDECENT, NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM.
I GUESS YOU'VE NEVER REALLY DONE ANY CHARGING ANYWHERE BUT IN OUR ROOM OR WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS AROUND
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE AROUND EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME
I JUST MEAN YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME SEMBLANCE OF RESPECT FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES JUST LIKE WITH EATING AND THINGS LIKE THAT

I'D BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU WERE SO INSISTENT DURING THE TRANSFER THIS MORNING.
YOU GOING TO BE BUSY THE WHOLE TIME TILL THEN?
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AT LUCH
I'VE GOT A LOT OF LECTURES TO GO TO TODAY
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SO COLD. NOT THAT HE'S EVER ANYTHING ELSE.
When your partner's of the opposite sex you can even start dating one another. But for the two of us it wouldn't really work. And besides him being male, I doubt the guy's got a romantic bone in his body.
HE'S SUCH A BORE.
RAEL!

GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING
MINE DID THE SAME DEAL WITH ME TODAY SHE'S SUCKING ME DRY
YOUR PARTNER HAS A BOYFRIEND NOW, DOESN'T SHE?
YOU LOOK KINDA TIRED. YOUR PARTNER BEEN EXPLOITING THE RESOURCES?
HE'S GOING TO BE BUSY TILL LUNCH SO HE HAD TO TAKE A LOT
I FEEL SO EXHAUSTED
YOU BET SHE DOES. SHE'S UP ALL NIGHT WITH HIM AND THEN RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE WHEN SHE RUNS OUT OF JUICE SHE COMES OUT AND GETS ME!
IT REALLY SUCKS
Alex! Probably doesn't have a girlfriend does he? If he did I'd have noticed by now
This is so not a morning person
Huh
GUESS IF WE GET GIRLFRIENDS IT'S BEST TO STICK TO SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE POWER THEMSELVES, HUH?

He hasn't done anything like that so far
If a receiver is going to have sex, I guess they have to do an awful lot of charging before hand

THEN AGAIN I DON'T THINK I'D WANT TO KNOW IF HE WAS COMING TO ME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT

THERE'S GOING TO BE A KID FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY COMING INTO OUR CLASS TODAY
IS HE FROM SOME-WHERE NEARBY?
HEY YOU THINK THAT'S HIM OVER THERE?

I'M HANNES. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
OH, SO YOU'RE THE KIND THAT CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT IT THEN? THAT MUST BE NICE...
Just sitting right next to me sit of a problem?
YOU, TOO
OF COURSE I DO. IF I DON'T LET POWER OUT SOMETIMES IT GETS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE
YOU MEAN YOU DO THAT KIND OF THING, RAE!?
YOU JUST CAN'T GO AROUND STARING AT THOSE GUYS WHEN THEY DO IT, YOU KNOW?
HEY... I REALLY WANNA TRY AND UNDERSTAND THE WAY THE PEOPLE OVER HERE WORK AND ALL THAT, BUT IT'S SO HARD TO GET A GOOD LOOK
AH, SO YOU'RE ONE OF THE SUPPLIERS THEN!?

WHA—?
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER NOW...
YEAH. MY PARTNER'S JUST A YEAR OLDER THAN ME.
WELL, I GUESS THEY'RE NOT ALL THAT COMMON, BUT IT'S STILL PERFECTLY NORMAL TO FIND SAME SEX PARTNERS.
IF THE TWO PEOPLE ARE COMPATIBLE THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH ELSE YOU CAN DO. NO ONE REALLY EXPLAINED THIS TO YOU VERY WELL, DID THEY?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HIM BEING A GIRL? MY PARTNER'S A GUY.
REALLY? SO YOU'VE GOT ANE-SAN WIFE!?*
*An ane-san refers to a wife that is older than her husband
SO, THEN, YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH A GUY?
A PARTNER AND A LOVER ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS. IT'S BEST IF YOU CAN LEARN TO KEEP THEM STRAIGHT.
IT SEEMS LIKE WHEN PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES GET INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE FROM OVER HERE AND THEN END UP SEEING THE PERSON THEY LIKE EXCHANGING POWER WITH THEIR PARTNER...
SOME PRETTY BAD FIGHTS HAVE GOTTEN STARTED.

THAT'S REALLY IT
SO THAT'S REALLY IT?
SO DOES YOUR PARTNER HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER FEELINGS BURIED BEHIND IT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
IT'S JUST LIKE EATING REALLY
I MEAN, IT IS PRETTY COMMON FOR OPPOSITE SEX PARTNERS TO END UP BEING A COUPLE. BUT
THAT'S KINDA JUST THE EASIEST THING TO DO WHEN YOU'RE AROUND SOMEONE SO MUCH
I DUNNO
I DON'T REALLY THINK SO THOUGH
I'd like to ask him that myself.

IT MIGHT FEEL REALLY GOOD!
I REALLY THINK YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING HERE!
SO, WHAT'S IT FEEL LIKE TO GET CHARGED UP?
WELL, I'M ALWAYS ON THE GIVING END... SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY
CAN I HAVE A TRY?
WHAT?
IT'S JUST ANOTHER KISS TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU ANYWAY!
BUT I'VE GOT TO DO A TRANSFER WITH MY PARTNER LATER IF I DON'T SAVE UP ENOUGH POWER FOR HIM...

?!
WHAT A SURPRISE!
WHA...
W-WHAT ARE YOU...

IT FELT SO NICE!
AMAZING... I COULDN'T REALLY TAKE IN ANY OF THE POWER, BUT IT FELT SO GOOD...
MMM... YOUR PARTNERS MUST BE SO LUCKY...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S SOMETHING SPECIFIC TO ME! ALL SUPPLIERS ARE THE SAME WAY! WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO FIND ONE TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHILE YOU'RE STAYING HERE?
HE'S NEVER TOLD YOU, HAS HE?
WHAT?
THAT IT FEELS REALLY GOOD
AND WHY WOULD HE WANT TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?

JEEZ LIKE HE D EVER SAY THAT SORT OF THING TO ME
すた
すた
すた
すた
HE S ALWAYS SO SHORT WHEN HE DEALS WITH ME
I VE BEEN WITH HIM FOR TEN YEARS AND IT S LIKE I BARELY KNOW HIM
HE S NEVER REALLY SAID WHETHER HE EVEN CARES ABOUT ME OR NOT
I SHOULD HARDLY BE EXPECTING HIM TO GO AROUND SAYING THAT KIND OF STUFF
すた
すた

I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE BUT I WONDER WHAT ALEX! DOES THINK ABOUT KISSING ME
ALEX!
RAE!
HUH IT'S PRETTY RARE TO ACTUALLY SEE YOU HERE ON TIME
WELL I HAD A LOT TO DO SO I FIGURED I'D BETTER HURRY OVER HERE
WE'RE COMING OVER HERE
LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH IT OK?

MM
OH YOU COULD TELL?
...HAVE YOU BEEN LETTING SOMEONE ELSE CHARGE OFF OF YOU?

WHAT...
DON'T EVEN JOKE WITH ME!
!!
HOLD ON! DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO AND HIT ME LIKE THAT!?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT THE ONE MESSING WITH ME?!
WHAT EXACTLY AM I TO YOU ANYWAY!?

THAT'S ALL I'VE BEEN TO YOU FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS, SO WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP NOW!
I'M JUST A BIG BATTERY, RIGHT!?
SO LONG AS I CAN CHARGE YOU UP ALL THE WAY, WHATEVER I DECIDE TO DO WITH ANYONE ELSE ISN'T ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS!

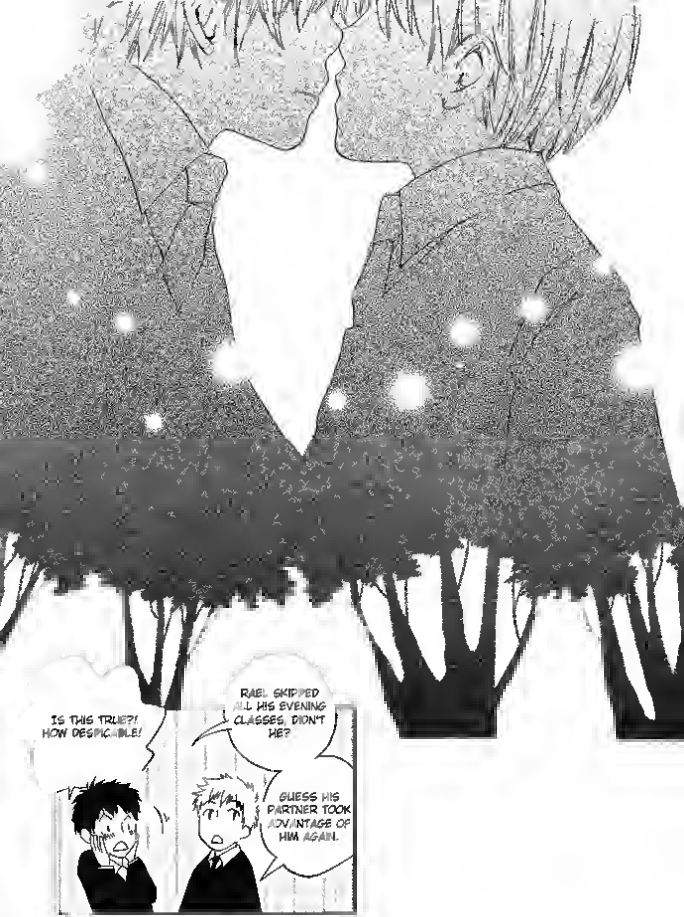
Not good.
AA
ALEXI... WAIT...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! I TOLD YOU TO STOP!
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TAKING POWER LIKE THAT!
I CAN'T EVEN STAND UP ANYMORE!
SORRY

ALEX!
WHEN YOU
WHEN YOU'RE TAKING IN POWER FROM ME...
DOES IT FEEL GOOD?
ER, WELL NO. WHAT I REALLY MEAN IS...
THE OTHER GUY SAID IT FELT REALLY NICE SO I KINDA STARTED WONDERING WHAT THE FEELING WAS WHEN YOU...
I NOTICE WHEN YOU GET YOURSELF MIXED WITH SOMEONE ELSE YOU KNOW!
AND JUST HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN GETTING MY POWER FROM YOU ANYWAY!?
IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD.

ALEX! AM I IMPORTANT TO YOU?
OF COURSE YOU ARE
SO I GUESS... YOU KIND OF LIKE ME THEN?
WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK ME THESE THINGS AFTER ALL THIS TIME!
WELL DO YOU!?
I DON'T WANT YOU SHARING POWER WITH ANYONE BUT ME
You need to tell me stuff like this same time

OK THEN.
WELL IF I HATED YOU I WOULDN'T HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO BE YOUR ROOMMATE IN THE DORMS, WOULD I?
UGH
SO FORGETTING THE POWER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME BESIDES THAT?
DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE EVER TAKE ANY POWER FROM YOU AGAIN
OK?
I REALLY CAN'T STAND AFTER YOUR ATTACK THERE YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CARRY ME BACK
...


RAEL SKIPPED ALL HIS EVENING CLASSES, DIDN'T HE?
IS THIS TRUE?! HOW DESPICABLE!
GUESS HIS PARTNER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIM AGAIN.

真空融接 1章／END

[illegible] Narwhal Portal
Readers Rise Above.
Arrgrant Eterna
[illegible] Narwhal Portal

http://www.narwhalportal.com

ラエルは描いていくたびに、どんどんアレクシの取り巻きになってしまいました。最初はアレクシの方がしっかり者で、ラエルがゴーイングマイウェイな性格の子の予定だったためですが、わからないものです！　漫画で触れてない裏設定ですが、ラエルが学んでいる専門学科は語学ということにしてあります。母親が翻訳の仕事をしているのでその影響もあるという感じです。

アレクシは最初はもっと凡庸な性格のつもりだったのですが
すぐに離れ去って、我侭なヘタレになってしまいました
1つ年上だけれど最神的にラエルに振り回してる子です。キノコの研究をしているというなんとなく地味な子で
アレクシには、外見がそっくりの父親、フロランがいますが
フロランのパートナーも男性なので、父が2人いるような感じです。

WOULD YOU COME OVER TO THE MEDICAL BUILDING FOR JUST A BIT?
RAEL
WHY?
ALEXI SEEMS TO HAVE COLLAPSED
AGAIN!?
真之融接

真空融接
しんくうゆうせつ
2章

THEY CALL ME IN HERE EVERY SINGLE TIME YOU COLLAPSE, AND MY CLASS IS ON THE FURTHEST SIDE OF THE SCHOOL FROM HERE!
.....
バタ
バタ
バタ
ALEX!!
RAEL
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS? IF YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF POWER, YOU NEED TO FIND ANOTHER SUPPLIER WHO WORKS AND USE THEM.
...I GET IT ALREADY, JUST GET OVER HERE

WE'RE NOT A FREAK SHOW!
AW DARN
WAIT HANNES. HOW LONG WERE YOU PLANNING TO STAND THERE WATCHING US?
IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LONG CLASS, YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE TO TAKE IN SOME EXTRA POWER IN THE MORNINGS...
HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER? NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
WHO'S HE?
TRANSFER STUDENT FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY
OH SO HE'S JUST KINDA CURIOUS THEN.

for the people of this country.

The pairing will last a lifetime. So it's a really major event.
Every person must be matched up with a partner. Around the age of three or four, they pair us up with someone in the same generation with a matching wave-length...

It is impossible for a 'receiver' to continue to live without periodically being given power from the 'supplier.' And in the same way, it is imperative for a 'supplier' that a 'receiver' accept some of the power generated within their body.
The other, the receiver.
One person is the supplier.

You can sort of think of the exchange similar to how you might say a machine recharges its batteries.
This "power" can't be made anywhere other than inside a supplier's own body. So for the receivers, the suppliers are completely indispensable.

And this power is always transferred through the two partners' lips

ENOUGH TO LAST TILL THE EVENING, I THINK.
DID YOU GET ENOUGH?
Though in emergency or special circumstances, a receiver should be able to accept power from other suppliers.

My partner for example would be one of them
.....
Though there are some overly fastidious receivers who can't stand that sort of thing.
OH LOOKS LIKE CLASS IS OVER
HEY
WHEN YOU WENT ON THAT TRIP FOR YOUR IN-COURSE TRAINING I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE
THIS KINDA THING IS FINE WHILE WE'RE AT SCHOOL, BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE NERVES OF YOURS WHEN WE GET OUT IN THE REAL WORLD?
I'M NOT TASTING ANY OF THE STUFF THAT COMES FROM OTHER PEOPLE FOR ANYTHING IN THE.
GAH!
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO. I CAN'T STAND WHAT I CAN'T STAND.

MY COURSE TRAINING TRIP IS NEXT WEEK!
CAFE
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING EARLIER!
LOOK, I CAN'T HELP IT. I ONLY REMEMBERED JUST NOW.

...WELL HOW LONG IS IT?
ONE WEEK.
BUT IT'S OK TO GET SOME POWER FROM PEOPLE EVEN IF THEY AREN'T YOUR PARTNER, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE APART FOR TOO LONG, YEAH
THOUGH IT'S USUALLY BEST TO AVOID THAT SINCE IF YOUR WAVE-LENGTHS DON'T MATCH, YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO BE COMPATIBLE.
ALEX'S GOT SUCH BAD NERVES THAT HE HAS AN UNREASONABLY AVERSE REACTION TO OTHER PEOPLE
HEY!
WELL, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! SITUATIONS LIKE THIS ARE ONLY GOING TO COME UP MORE AND MORE OFTEN SO IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET USED TO IT NOW
YOU'D JUST BETTER MAKE SURE YOU DON'T END UP DOING SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO EMBARRASS YOUR TEMPORARY PARTNER, LIKE THROWING UP IN THEIR LAP

OH REALLY?
WELL JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO FORGET YOUR OWN WORDS. I DON'T WANT IT TO BE LIKE LAST TIME. GETTING CALLED UP BY YOU TO SIT ON THE PHONE LISTENING TO YOUR WHINING.
A WEEK WITHOUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE ANY BIG PROBLEM FOR ME

SO WHO WAS IT THEN, WHO MADE THAT POUTY FACE AND KEPT SCREAMING 'NO ONE BUT RAEL! I WON'T DO IT!'
I DID NOT!

IS THIS A LOVER'S QUARREL?

OH GOOD MORNING
'MORNING RAEL!
ALEX! ALREADY OFF ON HIS TRIP?
YEAH. HE HAD THIS LOOK ON HIS FACE LIKE I WAS SENDING HIM OFF TO DIE OR SOMETHING.
SO HOW ARE YOU DOING?
GOOD MORNING RAEL. YOUR PARTNER'S GOING TO BE GONE THIS WHOLE WEEK IS THAT RIGHT?
OH GOOD MORNING DOCTOR
OH, I M.
RAEL!

OH, SURE. I'LL STOP BY AFTER SCHOOL.
SO WHAT ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING FOR?
IN THAT CASE IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF YOU COULD PARTICIPATE WITH US AS A VOLUNTEER.
TO BE A TEMPORARY PARTNER FOR ANYONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ONE RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE OF SEPARATIONS OR ANY OTHER ACCIDENTS...
SINCE ALEXI'S GOING TO BE GONE FOR THE WEEK, I SHOULD PROBABLY BE VOLUNTEERING FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS. I'LL HAVE A PRETTY TOUGH TIME IF THERE'S NO ONE TO TAKE IN MY POWER THE WHOLE TIME.
IF YOU KNOW ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE, IT'D BE GOOD OF YOU TO ASK THEM ABOUT IT FOR ME.
I'M TRYING TO GET IN CONTACT WITH ALL THE STUDENTS WHO'VE GOT PARTNERS OUT ON THE TRIP.
HUH
I RARELY EVER DO IT, THOUGH. ALEXI HATES IT WHEN I DO.
SO THEY'VE GOT IT ALL SET UP LIKE THAT?

SO OTHER PEOPLE REALLY LEAVE SOME SORT OF BAD TASTE BEHIND?
Like even when I kissed you before?
YEAH, IT STAYS AROUND INSIDE YOUR BODY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, ANYWAY MOST PEOPLE DON'T MIND IT, THOUGH
Even when you kissed me, Alexi was kissed before by a girl!
EVEN SO YOUR PARTNER'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE BEST PERSON TO EXCHANGE POWER WITH
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SOME KIND OF DRUG...
OH YEAH IT IS LIKE THAT
TO SOMEONE FROM OUT OF THIS COUNTRY THEY SHOULD LIKE THEY'RE COMPLETELY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER
BY THE WAY WHERE WAS IT ALEXI'S CLASS WAS GOING TO ANYWAY?
AND ALEXI'S BUILT UP A COMPLETE DEPENDENCY FOR ME
TO A MOUNTAIN NEAR THE BORDER I THINK A LOT OF MUSHROOMS GROW AROUND THERE
WOW
!!

YEAH
MUSHROOMS?
ALEXI'S CLASS IS STUDYING THE USAGE OF POISONOUS MUSHROOMS
STARE

HM? OH YEAH, SORRY. WE CAN USE THIS ONE RIGHT?
ALEXI? HOW COME YOU'RE STARING AT THE MUSHROOMS SO MUCH LIKE THAT?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT AND THIS ONE'S PRETTY RARE, TOO
ぱ
ER... YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY IT. I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED, ...OR SOMETHING.
HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU'RE KINDA OUT OF IT. ARE YOU TIRED FROM WALKING AROUND THIS WHOLE TIME?
.....

YOU WANT TO TRY TAKING SOME POWER FROM ME, THEN?
AH... I...
DON'T END UP DOING SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO EMBARRASS YOUR TEMPORARY PARTNER!
.....
SURE
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY THERE JUST ISN'T I'VE JUST GOT TO BEAR IT FOR ONE WEEK

H-HOW DID YOU...?
きょっ
URK
I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO BE BAD...
HOW WAS THAT?
I GUESS I CAN'T COMPARE TO YOUR PARTNER, BUT... HOW DID I TASTE TO YOU?
I THINK I GOT A LITTLE THANKS, IT REALLY HELPED

ER.
UM.
YOU KNOW, WE'VE STILL GOT A WHILE TILL ROLL CALL.
SAY ALEX!, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING DO YOU?
CRAP.
I THINK I'VE JUST BEEN BACKED INTO A CORNER.
I THINK I...

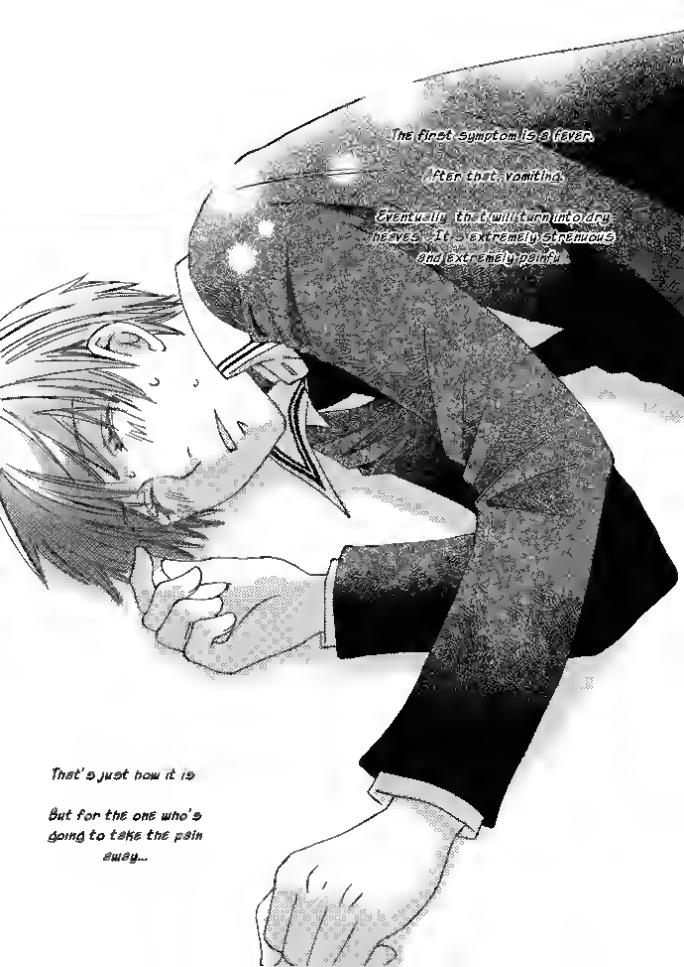
NO ONE BUT RAEL!
I WON'T DO IT!
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT, HONEY. WE'RE JUST GOING ON A TRIP.
I WON'T DO IT! ALL THE OTHER KIDS TASTE GROSS! IF IT'S NOT RAEL I WON'T DO IT!
COME ON. DON'T BE SO SELFISH.
YOU CAN MANAGE WITH SOMEONE ELSE FOR ONE DAY.
AND I WON'T DO ANYTHING WITH ANYONE WHILE YOU'RE GONE. I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT HERE.

I'LL BE
WAITING
FOR YOU...

I'M SURE HE'S FINE. HE DIDN'T CALL ME OR ANYTHING.
HE SHOULD BE BACK TONIGHT, ANYWAY.
SO IT'S BEEN SIX DAYS NOW.. YOU THINK ALEX MANAGED TO GET THROUGH IT ALL?
ITS?
YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD. ARE YOU ALRIGHT? DID YOU CATCH A COLD OR SOMETHING?
I'M FINE, REALLY..
RAEL? CAN I BORROW YOUR TEXTBOOK FOR MY NEXT CLASS?
I JUST HAD SOMETHING ON MY MIND
YEAH. SURE
OH

I HEARD YOU DECIDED NOT TO DO THE VOLUNTEER THING THIS TIME.
THERE SOMEONE ELSE YOU'VE BEEN CHARGING FOR INSTEAD?
YEAH, I'LL BE FINE.
IF YOU SAY SO, MAN.
SO WHAT EXACTLY IS IT THAT HAPPENS WHEN A SUPPLIER SAVES UP TOO MUCH POWER?
THANKS FOR THE BOOK!
SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT HANNES. YOU WANNA START HEADING TO THE NEXT CLASS?

RAEL?!
YOU WOULDN'T SERIOUSLY BE...
フラッ
HEY——
ARE YOU OK, RAEL?
RAEL!


The first symptom is a fever.
After that, vomiting.
Eventually that will turn into dry heaves. It's extremely strenuous and extremely painful.
That's just how it is
But for the one who's going to take the pain away...

The one who's going to take it away...
HE LOOKS OK FOR NOW I THINK
LAY HIM DOWN OVER HERE FOR NOW
I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE DORM
HEY! ARE THERE ANY SUPPLIERS AROUND HERE ANYWHERE?
OH, I CAN DO IT FOR YOU.
WAIT A SEC, RAEL! DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. YOU CAN BARELY STAND...
RAEL!
ARE YOU AWAKE!?
NO, WAIT. THE REASON HE FAINTED WAS BECAUSE HE SAVED UP TOO MUCH POWER.
SERIOUSLY? HE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO OVERDO IT.

YOU SURE ARE STUPID
IT'S PAINFUL, ISN'T IT?
DON'T... DON'T GO BLAMING ALEX! FOR THIS OK?
MIND GIVING ME A HAND?
YEAH. IT IS. BUT WHENEVER I DO A TRANSFER WITH ALEX! AFTER I'VE KISSED ANOTHER PERSON. HE MAKES THIS AWFUL FACE
WHEN HE GOT BACK, WE DID OUR TRANSFER.
I ONLY DID IT ONCE, BUT... ONCE WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
ALEX! HAD GONE ON A TRIP, AND I WAITED FOR HIM TILL HE GOT BACK, WITHOUT GIVING MY POWER TO ANYONE ELSE.
HE... MADE SUCH A HAPPY FACE BACK THEN.

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF
I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE THAT FACE AGAIN
BUT THAT GUY
HE PROBABLY GOT A CHARGE FROM SOMEONE ELSE, JUST LIKE YOU TOLD HIM TO
I CAN TELL
LOOKING AT HIS FACE AFTER WE DO AN EXCHANGE.
HE'S NEVER TOLD IT TO ME HIMSELF BUT
THAT'S OK THOUGH
YEAH, PROBABLY SO

.....
I'M...
THE ONLY ONE HE REALLY WANTS.
LIKE A LOVE-SICK SCHOOLGIRL.

SO LONG!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE NEXT TWO DAYS OFF!
YOUR REPORT ON THE TRIP IS DUE IN TO THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WHEN WE GET BACK OFF THE HOLIDAY!
ALRIGHT, CLASS DISMISSED!

MAN, I'M TIRED!
YOU WANNA COME OVER TO MY PLACE?
NAW, I'LL PASS ON THAT ONE. IT REALLY IS HARD MAKING IT THROUGH A WEEK WITHOUT YOUR PARTNER.
YEAH THAT'S TRUE
YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING TOMORROW THEN?
YEAH. MEET ME AT THE IN FRONT OF THE FOUNTAIN AT SIX?
ALEX!!
YOU WANNA COME TOO, ALEX!?
...MAYBE TOMORROW...

OH NO, I'M GLAD REALLY THOUGH I DID END UP HAVING TO CARRY RAEL BACK UP TO HIS ROOM WHEN HE FAINTED TODAY
EH?
YOU'RE RAEL'S CLASS-MANTE... UH...
IT'S HANNES!
TRY TO REMEMBER IT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THOUGH YOU LOOK A LOT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED
. HE DID WHAT?
I JUST CAME TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T WOBBLING ALL OVER THE PLACE JUST LIKE HIM.
HE SAVED UP TOO MUCH POWER.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE OK. SO YOU MANAGED PRETTY WELL WITHOUT RAEL. DIDN'T YOU?
HEHEH GUESS SOMETHING HIT A NERVE

OH, ALEX! WELCOME BACK.
YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT, AREN'T YOU! AFTER EVERYTHING YOU SAID TO ME!
ONE WEEK.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SAVING THIS UP?
RAEL!
バタ
バタ
バタ
バタ

ONE... HOW ARE YOU EVEN CONSCIOUS!?
WELL YEAH. I'M IN A LOT OF PAIN. SO HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE
I CHARGED OFF ANOTHER SUPPLIER JUST LIKE YOU SAID, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S OK.

ahh...
mm.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...
I FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING IS GOING TO TURN OUT JUST PERFECT
JUST BE QUIET. YOU'RE MAKING ME WANT TO THROW UP.
OK
YEAH

あ！
I LEFT MY TEXT BOOK AND NOTES IN THEIR ROOM! AND I'VE GOT TO TURN EVERYTHING IN TOMORROW!
BUT BUT TO GO BACK THERE NOW... I MUSN'T!

真空融接 2章／END

留学生のハネスに、ラエル、アレクシの面の特異性を理解するために登場させた異国の少年ですが、まさかほぼ全話に絡んでくることになるとは思いませんでした。アレクシと同い年ですが留学先ではラエルと同じ学年に所属しています。制服は『新しい制服は着慣れないので毎回の学校のものを着用し続けている』という設定です。ズボンがなくて長いパンツなのはそのせいです。

ラエルやアレクシの学校の制服は、とりたてて何かを参考にしたわけではありませんが　襟のラインは某少年合唱団の制服のブレザーに入っているラインから影響を受けてます。パンツ丈は太ももが見えない絶さが好き　細いた腰はありませんが、上着の留金は飾ボタンです。あとブレザーみたいな衿はついてない感しです。

[illegible] Narwhal Portal
Readers Rise Above.
Arrgrant Eterna
[illegible] Narwhal Portal

http://www.narwhalportal.com

真空融接
しんくうゆうせつ
◆3章◆

ONLY ONCE BEFORE HAD I EVER HEARD HIM SING.
STILL, IN MY MEMORY FROM BACK THEN, HIS VOICE WAS ONE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS...
KEEL!
KEEL!

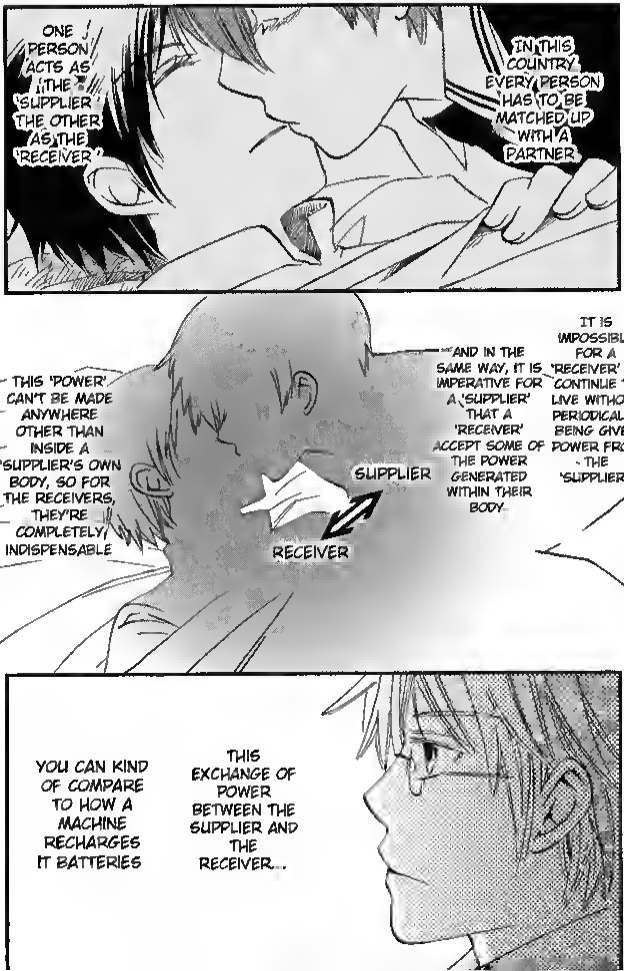
I WAS SURE THAT SOMEDAY, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT AGAIN...
OH.
YEAH.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD SLEEPING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY BUSY WITH YOUR STUDIES LATELY. I REALLY DON'T MIND IF YOU HAVE TO TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR JOB HERE SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW.
I'VE HEARD FROM OTHERS WHAT AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT YOU ARE. YOUR STUDIES SHOULD ALWAYS BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.
I'M FINE, REALLY. I ONLY DO ODD JOBS AROUND HERE ANYWAY, AND IT'S HELPING ME FURTHER THE FOCUS OF MY STUDIES
EVEN IF I DO NOD OFF SOMETIMES...
I LIKE THE CHANGE OF PACE, TOO.
AND BESIDES THAT...
IT'S NICE HAVING THE COMPANY OF ALL THE KIDS THAT COME INTO THE MEDICAL BUILDING.

AND AFTER THAT, THEY'LL GOING TO SELECT THE CANDIDATES FOR YOUR NEW PARTNER.
THEY'RE DOING THE FINAL PARTNER SELECTION FOR THE YOUNG MAN IN THE SICKROOM.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS
THEY'RE BEING DECIDED RIGHT NOW

THE NEWSPAPERS SURE PRINT WHATEVER SUITS THEM BEST.
The Partner's Death.
A song of hope.
Is there chance for a comeback?
GOOD MORNING, KEEL!
THANKS A LOT FOR VOLUNTEERING
OH RAEL ALEXI
ALEXI'S ONLY COMING ALONG WITH ME
THIS CLEAN FREAK WOULDN'T EVER VOLUNTEER FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS

ALEX! WON'T USE ANYONE BUT YOU, RAEL?
YEAH... HE'S A COMPLETELY HOPELESS CASE IF A DAY EVER COMES WHEN I'M NOT AROUND ANYMORE...
HE NOT GOING TO MANAGE MUCH LONG AFTER
JUST KEEP DOING YOUR BEST, KEEL.
HEY.
OH, GOSH I'M SORRY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THOUGH I GUESS I CAN'T REALLY HELP YOU OUT SINCE I'M A SUPPLIER JUST LIKE YOU
SO IS THAT THE KID I'M VOLUNTEERING FOR?
I'LL JUST BE A SECOND THEN.

YOU MUST BE REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE RAEL AS YOUR PARTNER, ALEX!
RAEL'S WAVELENGTH MATCHES WITH THE OTHER KIDS
THE DOCTORS ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY TO VOLUNTEER, SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT, REALLY.
THOUGH I REALLY DON'T LIKE CHARGING WITH HIM AFTERWARDS
WHENEVER HE GIVES POWER TO SOMEONE ELSE, IT ALWAYS LEAVES BEHIND A DIFFERENT TASTE
BUT RAEL ASKED ME IF HE COULD DO IT, AND IT'S AWFULLY HARD TURNING THAT GUY DOWN...
WE'VE ALL BEEN BORN INTO SUCH A TROUBLESOME PLACE


ONE PERSON ACTS AS THE 'SUPPLIER' THE OTHER AS THE 'RECEIVER'
IN THIS COUNTRY, EVERY PERSON HAS TO BE MATCHED UP WITH A PARTNER
THIS 'POWER' CAN'T BE MADE ANYWHERE OTHER THAN INSIDE A 'SUPPLIER'S OWN BODY, SO FOR THE RECEIVERS, THEY'RE COMPLETELY INDISPENSABLE
SUPPLIER
RECEIVER
AND IN THE SAME WAY, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR A 'SUPPLIER' THAT A 'RECEIVER' ACCEPT SOME OF THE POWER GENERATED WITHIN THEIR BODY
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A 'RECEIVER' TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WITHOUT PERIODICALLY BEING GIVEN POWER FROM THE 'SUPPLIER'
YOU CAN KIND OF COMPARE TO HOW A MACHINE RECHARGES IT BATTERIES
THIS EXCHANGE OF POWER BETWEEN THE SUPPLIER AND THE RECEIVER...

THESE PARTNERS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PUT INTO SETS AROUND THE AGE OF THREE OR FOUR, WITH ANOTHER CHILD FROM GENERALLY THE SAME GENERATION WHOSE WAVELENGTH MATCHES THE BEST.
THIS IS THE AGE WHEN THE SUPPLIER'S BODY BEGINS TO CREATE POWER AND THE RECEIVER'S BODY BECOMES UNABLE TO SUSTAIN ITSELF WITHOUT THIS POWER.
AND THIS POWER IS ALWAYS TRANSFERRED THROUGH THE TWO PARTNERS' LIPS.
THERE ARE THE TIMES WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS, AND SOME, AFTER BEING TOGETHER WITH THEIR MATCH FROM SUCH A YOUNG AGE, ARE LEFT ALONE BY THE DEATH OF THEIR PARTNER

EDITOR: SORRY FOR THE BAD CLEANING ON THIS PAGE ...)
LUCKILY, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE FINE SO LONG AS A NEW PARTNER CAN BE FOUND SOON ENOUGH. BUT EVEN THEN, TRYING TO BUILD A SPEEDY CONNECTION BETWEEN NEW PARTNERS CAN BE A PROBLEM...
THIS CAN BE ESPECIALLY BAD WHEN THE SUBJECT HAS BUILT UP A DEPENDENCY ON THEIR OLD PARTNER.
THOUGH THEIR LIVES MAY DEPEND ON IT, THE OLD PARTNER, UNABLE TO TRANSFER WITH THEIR NEW MATCH, GROWS VERY WEAK, AND IN SOME CASES, CAN EVEN DIE.
IF A NEW PARTNER ISN'T FOUND FOR THAT KID SOON, THIS COULD START GETTING DANGEROUS...
HEY, KEEL!
HAVE THEY FOUND A NEW PARTNER FOR YOU YET?

THANKS
AND THANKS FOR YOUR HELP HERE, YOU TWO NOW YOU'D BETTER GET GOING OR THERE WON'T BE ANY DINNER LEFT FOR YOU
REALLY!? THAT'S GREAT!
ER, YEAH
THEY'RE DONE COLLECTING CANDIDATES NOW, ANYWAY
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, SEMPAI
ARE...
SEE YOU LATER, KEEL!
ハーイ
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
GAH!

I'LL GET THE DOCTOR!
DON'T
DON'T TOUCH ME...!
THE DOCTOR CAN'T HELP ME!
DON'T EVEN BOTHER!
TINA'S POWER IS THE ONLY ONE THAT EVER WORKS.
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

I HATE THIS! DON'T HAVE PEOPLE COMING IN TO CHARGE ME WHILE I'M LAYING THERE ASLEEP!
IT FEELS TERRIBLE!
I'M GOING TO DIE LIKE THIS. .
DON'T SAY THAT!
I PROBABLY OUGHT TO DIE HERE, ANYWAY.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...

I KNOW THE SUDDEN DEATH OF YOUR PARTNER IN AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT MUST BE VERY HARD FOR YOU
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TALK OF DYING SO LIGHTLY!
BUT... BUT UP TILL NOW, I'D NEVER DONE IT WITH ANYONE BUT TINA.
AND NOW YOU WANT ME TO SUDDENLY GET MY POWER FROM THESE DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
...I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME HIM. HE'S STILL SO YOUNG.
ELIAS.

I... I THINK I'M OK BUT HOW—
VERY BAD?
....?
HOW WAS THAT?

I DID SOME CALCULATIONS WITH THE DATA ON THE COMPUTER.
COMPARED TO YOUR OLD PARTNER...
I'M THE CLOSEST MATCH
THOUGH IT'D BE RATHER HARD TO PUT THE TWO OF US IN A SET
WELL...
I'M GOING TO GO GET THE DOCTOR, SO I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

GAH... PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER SURE IS TOUGH. I'M GLAD I GOT IT ALL DONE, THOUGH...
THE SUN IS HURTING MY EYES...
ぼんやり
GOOD MORNING!
ELIAS?! IS IT REALLY OK FOR YOU TO BE WALKING AROUND!?
THOUGH, I GUESS YOU DO LOOK A LOT BETTER NOW
カチャ
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D LOST YOUR PARTNER, TOO.
I SAID SOME AWFUL THINGS, AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

BUT I'M DOING GOOD NOW. I WAS ONLY LYING AROUND IN BED BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER.
ANYWAY, I NEED TO GET BACK TO PRACTICE SOON
SINGING DOES USE UP POWER, BUT SO LONG AS I CHARGE REALLY WELL FIRST I'LL BE FINE.
PRACTICE? YOU MEAN YOUR SINGING? AREN'T YOU OVERDOING IT, GOING SO SOON?
!!
IT'S KIND OF STRANGE...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR POWER IS OK. IT DOESN'T MAKE ME SICK, AND IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME LATER THIS EVENING? IF IT'S OK, I'LL COME AND GET SOME POWER AFTER MY LESSONS
OH! I'M GOING TO BE HAVING LESSONS IN THE MUSIC ROOM FOR ALL OF TODAY.
ELIAS, I'M NOT...
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I CHARGED WITH TIHA.
ER
WELL
...
...THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT KID, IT WAS AT THE CONCERT ON THE SUMMER SOLSTICE LAST YEAR.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN!

IT'D REALLY BE TOO BAD IF HIS NEW PARTNER HAD TO BE SOME SLOW OLD MAN WHO CAN'T EVEN MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF MUSIC.
BUT WHETHER ELIAS' PARTNER IS SOME CUTE YOUNG GIRL OR A SLOW OLD MAN...
HE WAS SINGING SO HAPPILY, AND THE ENTIRE TIME HIS PARTNER STAYED NEXT TO HIM, PLAYING HER HARP
THE TWO FIT EACH OTHER SO WELL, AND YET...

HEY...
KEEL!
WOW, THANKS. YOU CAME HERE JUST FOR ME?
IT ISN'T SOMETHING I SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH, ANYWAY.
I FIGURED YOU'D BE A LITTLE BUSIER THAN ME, ANYWAY. YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN PRETTY WELL KNOWN AS A SINGER, HAVEN'T YOU?
HE SAID HE THOUGHT YOU'D GONE TO GET ME!
I FIGURED YOU WERE BUSY, SO I ASKED THE DOCTOR WHERE YOU WERE.
AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR LESSON I CAN SEE WHY. YOU HAVE A VERY LOVELY VOICE.

I'M STILL NOT QUITE BACK TO MYSELF THROUGH TINA'S FUNERAL AND EVERYTHING ELSE I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ABLE TO RELAX. I'M STILL A LITTLE OUT OF TOUCH
BUT THE WINTER FESTIVAL IS COMING SOON, SO I'VE JUST GOT TO DO MY BEST.
YOU'RE NOT OVERDOING IT, ARE YOU?
THE TEACHER WAS WORRIED, TOO, BUT I'VE GOT A SOLO AT THE FESTIVAL.
A SOLO? WOW, THAT'S GREAT.
YOU'LL COME AND LISTEN, WON'T YOU KEEL?
I'LL RESERVE A SPECIAL SEAT JUST FOR YOU!
AND HE'S WAY OLDER, ISN'T HE?
HEY, IS THAT ELIAS' NEW PARTNER?
HE LOOKS KINDA DOPEY

NOT AT ALL! I LOVE SINGING!
AND NOW I'VE GOT A NEW PARTNER, TOO!
LET IT GO, ELIAS.
HEHEHEH.
I'VE BEEN CALLED A DORK PLENTY ENOUGH BEFORE.
NOT TO MENTION A GUY! GLAD THEY KNEW BETTER THAN TO PUT ME WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT!
BWAHAHA!
HEY!
AH... ELIAS ABOUT THAT—
THIS MUST BE REALLY HARD FOR YOU
THOSE GUYS... THEY KNEW IF I DIDN'T COME BACK TO THE CHOIR, THAT WOULD OPEN UP THE SOLOIST POSITION
I CAN'T BE YOUR NEW PARTNER.

I'M SURE YOU KNOW JUST AS WELL AS I DO.
BUT WHY...!
IDEAL SETS HAVE ONLY A ONE OR TWO YEAR AGE DIFFERENCE.
THERE'S TOO BIG A DIFFERENCE IT COULD MAKE EVEN JUST OUR ORDINARY DAILY LIVES MORE DIFFICULT.
YOU MUST BE SOMETHING LIKE TWELVE YEARS OLD
I'M SEVENTEEN IT WOULDN'T WORK.
BUT I'M...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GREAT SINGER WHEN YOU GROW UP. I'M GOING TO BE GOING ON TRIPS ALL THE TIME FOR MY STUDIES
I'M NOT ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET WORN OUT DURING PRACTICE OR A PERFORMANCE
BESIDES OUR PATHS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

NEXT YEAR I'M GOING TO GRADUATE AND GO TO COLLEGE. IT WOULD GET EVEN HARDER AFTER THAT.
EVEN IF OUR WAVELENGTHS MATCH BETTER THAN WITH ANYONE ELSE. IT WOULD BE TOO HARD. THE DOCTORS WILL SAY THE SAME THING.
THE TWO OF US...
HOW DO WE KNOW UNLESS WE TRY?!
EH?
I KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO FIND ANYONE THAT MATCHES ME AS MUCH AS YOU DO, KEEL!
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE MY NEXT PARTNER RIGHT FROM THE START! WHEN WE EXCHANGE POWER, IF FEELS RIGHT, DOESN'T IT?
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY...
IT'S OK

PLEASE, KEEL?
HEY
ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
MY LESSON'S ALMOST OVER, SO WAIT RIGHT HERE, OK?
WE CAN GO OUT FOR SOME TEA!

KEEL
ELIAS!
I THOUGHT WE WERE MEETING OUTSIDE AT THREE
OH, SORRY THE LESSON ENDED EARLY TODAY.
IT'S LUNCH BREAK NOW SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK.. AND I WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE STUDYING.
OH, NO IT'S OK, BUT

IT'S NOT A FORMAL DECISION YET, ANYWAY
REALLY? BUT HE'S WAY YOUNGER, ISN'T HE?
HEY.
WHO'S THAT? SOME FRIEND OF KEEL-SEMPAI'S?
OH, THAT'S ONE OF HIS PARTNER CANDIDATES
YOU SURE ARE WELL INFORMED, ALEX!
PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TELL HIM IT'S CAUSE I'M ALWAYS GETTING TAKEN TO THE MEDICAL BUILDING
WHISPER
ANYWAY SEMPAI'S PARTNER IS REALLY CUTE, HUH? MAN, I'M JEALOUS
WHISPER
YOU IDIOT! THAT'S A GUY!
THE EXPERIMENT'S RUNNING A LITTLE LONGER HERE.
ANYWAY, I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I'M GETTING OUT.
KEEL!

SAKIAH!
SORRY IF I'M INTERRUPTING. ...KEEL, COULD I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
SAKIAH...?
MIND IF I STEP OUT A MINUTE?
SO HOW'S IT GOING?

I'M JUST FINE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DON'T LOOK VERY GOOD.
DOES YOUR NEW PARTNER'S WAVELENGTH NOT MATCH YOU WELL ENOUGH?
OH, DEAR. IT'S MY SELFISHNESS THAT'S BEEN PUTTING YOU THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE, YOU KNOW.
YOUR COMPLEXION'S LOOKING BETTER, SO I GUESS YOU MUST BE DOING WELL WITH YOUR NEW PARTNER, HUH?
YOU SHOULD HARDLY HAVE TO WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT ME.
—SO YOU'LL BE LEAVING TOMORROW?
YEAH I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE
—AND YOU KEEP UP THOSE STUDIES, KEEL
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

THANKS... FOR BEING MY PARTNER THE LAST THIRTEEN YEARS
IS THAT GIRL KEEL'S GIRLFRIEND?

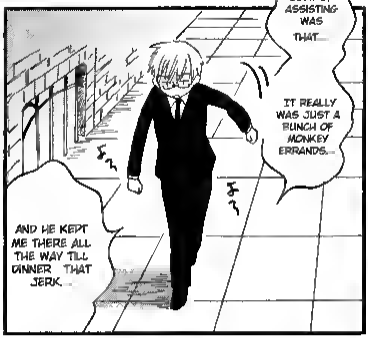
BUT I THOUGHT HIS PARTNER WAS DEAD...!
NOBODY DIED. IT WAS JUST A CASE WHERE THEY TALKED IT OVER AND DECIDED TO SPLIT UP.
HIS... PARTNER? BUT...
I DON'T THINK SO SHE'S HIS OLD PARTNER.
NO...
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
OH.

....
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I GUESS I STILL...
CAN'T CONVINCE YOU TO BE MY REAL PARTNER, CAN I?
ELIAS?
IT'S NOTHING. SORRY I MENTIONED IT.
IS IT OK IF I TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES?

...IS IT OK IF I COME SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE EVENING?
...WAIT FOR ME, AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S OVER
OH...
SORRY, I'VE GOT A PRESENTATION TODAY, AND IT MIGHT RUN LONG, SO...
...OK!
.....

I'M AWARE OF THAT...
BUT WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT THAT GIRL WHO WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM BEFORE...
IF YOU'RE ALREADY COMPATIBLE, WHAT'S THE REST MATTER ANYWAY? AND HE'S SO ATTACHED TO YOU IT'S SAD.
...KEEL-SEMPAI, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET THE KID KNOW YOU'RE CHOOSING HIM TO BE YOUR PARTNER ALREADY?
SEE YOU LATER!
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR LESSON.
IT MIGHT BE ALRIGHT IF I KNEW EVEN THE FIRST THING ABOUT MUSIC, BUT...
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ELIAS' PARTNER
INDECISIVENESS ISN'T VERY ATTRACTIVE
TOMORROW AFTER THE WINTER FESTIVAL
I'LL GIVE HIM A DIRECT ANSWER.
OH, AREN'T YOU GOING TO BE REALLY BUSY DURING THE FESTIVAL?
EH?

OH, DON'T WORRY YOURSELF. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO DO ANY SPEAKING. LEAVE ALL THAT TO ME AND YOUR SUPERIORS.
WE'D JUST LIKE YOU TO TAKE CARE OF SOME OF THE LITTLE DETAILS FOR US.
IT'S GONNA EAT INTO HIS WINTER VACATION
HIS TYPE'S ALWAYS EASY TO USE FOR THAT
IN OTHER WORDS, OFFICIAL ERRAND MONKEY
WHISPER
WHISPER
I'D LIKE YOU TO ATTEND THE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE AS MY ASSISTANT.
YOU NEVER SAID THAT BEFORE !!
ER.
BUT...
ALRIGHT! WE'D BETTER HURRY AND GET YOU STARTED ON YOUR PREPARATIONS (MONKEY ERRANDS) RIGHT AWAY!
POOR BASTARD


WHAT SORT OF ASSISTING WAS THAT...
IT REALLY WAS JUST A BUNCH OF MONKEY ERRANDS...
AND HE KEPT ME THERE ALL THE WAY TILL DINNER. THAT JERK...

THE HEATING'S NOT EVEN ON...
GAH, IT'S SO COLD...

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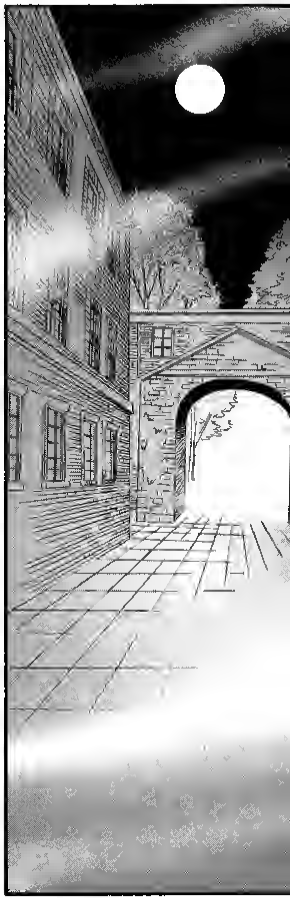


W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I PROMISED TO MEET YOU THIS EVENING...
OH, WELCOME HOME.
ELIAS!
IT'S LONG PAST LIGHTS OUT, SO PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN.
-ER
OK...
I'M SORRY SOMETHING CAME UP AND I...
HOW'RE YOU MAKING ALL THAT NOISE WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE IN HERE?
CRAP. IT'S THE HOUSEMASTER!
IT'S ME!
URK
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! EVERYTHING'S FINE!
WELL, GOODNIGHT
A VERY GOODNIGHT TO YOU, TOO

HMPH.
THOUGH IT OUGHT TO BE OK SINCE YOU'RE NOT A GIRL.
THIS IS KIND OF BAD NON-RESIDENTS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO COME IN HERE
SORRY.
...AND YOU'VE BEEN WAITING HERE WITHOUT ANY HEATING?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU CATCH COLD? YOU'VE GOT THAT SOLO AT THE FESTIVAL TOMORROW
ARE YOU GOING TO COME AND LISTEN?
AH. I'M SORRY, BUT— ACTUALLY, TOMORROW I—

YOU DID?
WOULD YOU LIKE IT BETTER IF YOU COULD BE THAT GIRL'S PARTNER AGAIN?
.....
.....
THE WHOLE TIME I THOUGHT
I THOUGHT YOUR PARTNER HAD DIED, TOO
MAYBE KEEL IS WONDERING IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE HIS OLD PARTNER CAN COME BACK.
MAYBE HE'S WONDERING IF SHE WANTS TO COME BACK OR NOT.

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU SOMETHING LIKE THAT
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS YOU'D HESITATE TO BECOME MY PARTNER
ELIAS... SAKIAH IS .
ELIAS...
IS IT OK IF I TAKE A LOT OF POWER FOR THE FESTIVAL TOMORROW?

IF YOU'RE GOING HOME, I CAN WALK YOU.
I'LL BE FINE!
THIS IS THE POWER I'LL BE SINGING WITH TOMORROW.
GOODNIGHT.
AH...

IT'S HARD TO RUN IN THIS OUTFIT!
THE TEN MINUTE CURTAIN BELL'S ALREADY GONE OFF!
ELIAS!
HEY. THANKS FOR THE TICKETS! KNOCK 'EM DEAD OUT THERE!
RAEL! ALEX!!
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
THE UNIFORM GIVES YOU A WHOLE DIFFERENT PRESENCE
THERE'S EVEN SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE IN THE GUEST SEATS. YOU MUST REALLY BE SOMETHING OUT THERE.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS KINDA YOUR COME-BACK PERFORMANCE ISN'T IT?
IT'S GOING TO BE MY VERY FIRST PERFORMANCE WITHOUT TINA, SO I AM PRETTY NERVOUS.
IS KEEL COMING TO SEE YOU TODAY?
I...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, ACTUALLY...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS EL-SEMPAI SAID, BUT I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO COME.
HE SAID SOMETHING TO ME EARLIER.
ELIAS.

PROFESSOR, WHAT TIME DOES THE NEXT TRAIN LEAVE?
TWO O'CLOCK. THE ONE O'CLOCK HAS ALREADY STARTED HEADING OUT I THINK.
I'LL BE JUST IN TIME FOR THE TRAIN. THEN WON'T HAVE TO CATCH A TAXI. IS IT ALRIGHT IF I DROP BY THE FESTIVAL FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
AH. WELL, I'LL JUST FIND MYSELF ANOTHER STUDENT TO HAVE SOME COFFEE WITH, THEN.
THE FESTIVAL? YOU GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT DOWN THERE?
NO. I'M GOING TO THE CHOIR'S PERFORMANCE IN THE CONCERT HALL. I'LL BE LISTENING TO THE CHORUS AND THERE'S A SOLO IN THE OLD TONGUE I'M COMING TO HEAR.
OH. THOUGH IF YOU'RE GOING TO A CONCERT, YOU OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR APPEARANCE.
ふーん

I TOOK MY PLACE IN THE SEAT ELIAS HAD DONE SO MUCH TO GET FOR ME.
AND WITH THE BELL, THE OPENING SOLO BEGAN.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?
...STUDYING ABROAD?
YEAH. MY GRADES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HIGH, SO I WAS PICKED OUT FOR THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.
IT STARTS AFTER THIS YEAR. I'LL BE STUDYING ABROAD
THE OTHER GIRL THAT GOT PICKED IS A SLEPPLIER, AND OUR WAVELENGT HS SEEM TO MATCH
SO IT LOOKS LIKE AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER, WE SHOULD BE FINE EVEN IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY
KEEL.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I STILL WANT TO DO THIS

THANK YOU...
I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THIS, KEEL. THANK YOU...
...IT'S OK, GO.
I'LL BE FINE I'LL APPLY FOR A NEW PARTNER WITH THE DOCTORS AS SOON AS I CAN
THANK YOU...

EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE EXCHANGED POWER, I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE THE BEST PARTNER FOR ME.
BUT LIKE THE COWARD I WAS, I COULD ONLY THINK OF HOW YOU MIGHT LEAVE ME BEHIND JUST AS QUICKLY.
I THOUGHT THERE OUGHT TO BE SOMEONE MORE LIKE HER, A MORE SUITABLE PARTNER FOR YOU, THAN SOMEONE LIKE ME.

SO THIS BEAUTIFUL VOICE COULD RESONATE THROUGH THIS HALL.
BECAUSE OF MY POWER, HE IS ABLE TO SING.
BUT WITH THE VERY POWER I GAVE HIM, HE SANG. HE SAID IT HIMSELF.

A SOUND SO LOVELY, I NEARLY CRIED.

OVER HERE, KEEL! OVER HERE!
GAH, I ACTUALLY MADE IT.
REALLY. YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE.
HOW WAS THE CONCERT?
NOT IN GOOD SHAPE
IT WAS REALLY GREAT.
...A REALLY BIG EVENT FOR THE GUY MY LIFE'S GETTING LOCKED WITH FROM NOW ON.

OH, RIGHT. I FORGOT TO TELL ELIAS I WAS GOING TO ACCEPT HIS OFFER...
ALL THE LUGGAGE ON BOARD?
YEAH.
I'LL HAVE TO CALL HIM LATER...
KEEL!
KEEL!
ELIAS?!

AH!
I GOT YOU JUST IN TIME!
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER? ...AND YOU CAME WEARING THAT THING?
BUT YOU LEFT SO FAST!
I HAD TO HURRY UP AND FOLLOW YOU!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE CONCERT.
I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT TO YOU PROPERLY.
...IT WAS A REALLY GREAT PERFORMANCE.
THERE MIGHT BE A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE TWO OF US TOGETHER.
WE MIGHT END UP BEING A BOTHER TO ONE ANOTHER, BUT—
WOULD YOU PLEASE BE MY PARTNER?

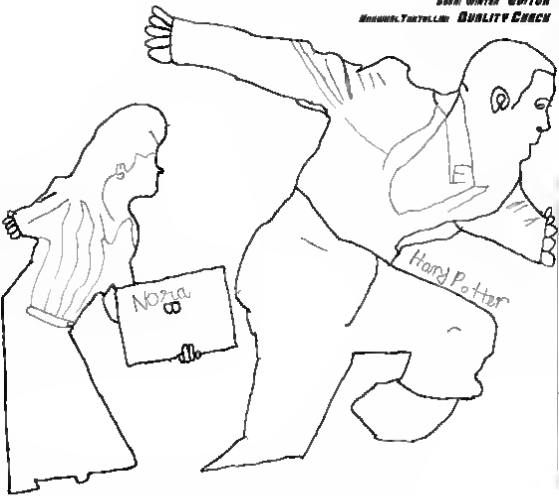
HE SAID SOMETHING TO ME YESTERDAY
I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS KEEL-SEMPAI SAID, BUT I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO COME
HE SAID HE CHOOSE YOU.

HEY! THE TRAIN'S LEAVING! FINISH UP IN THE CARRIAGE!
EH? BUT WE'LL BE GOING TO AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE!
BUT ELIAS ISN'T COMING IN THE...
WE'RE COMING!
I'LL COME WITH YOU! I NEED TO SPEND MY WINTER VACATION GETTING TO KNOW MY NEW PARTNER!
I'M OFF TILL THE END OF THE YEAR, ANYWAY!

MAYBE JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
I CAN LEAVE MYSELF AT THE MERCY OF THIS SMALL NEW PARTNER OF MINE.
—真空融接_3章／END

amber loVE PJ

Scanner
Translator
Proofreader
Editor
Quality Check



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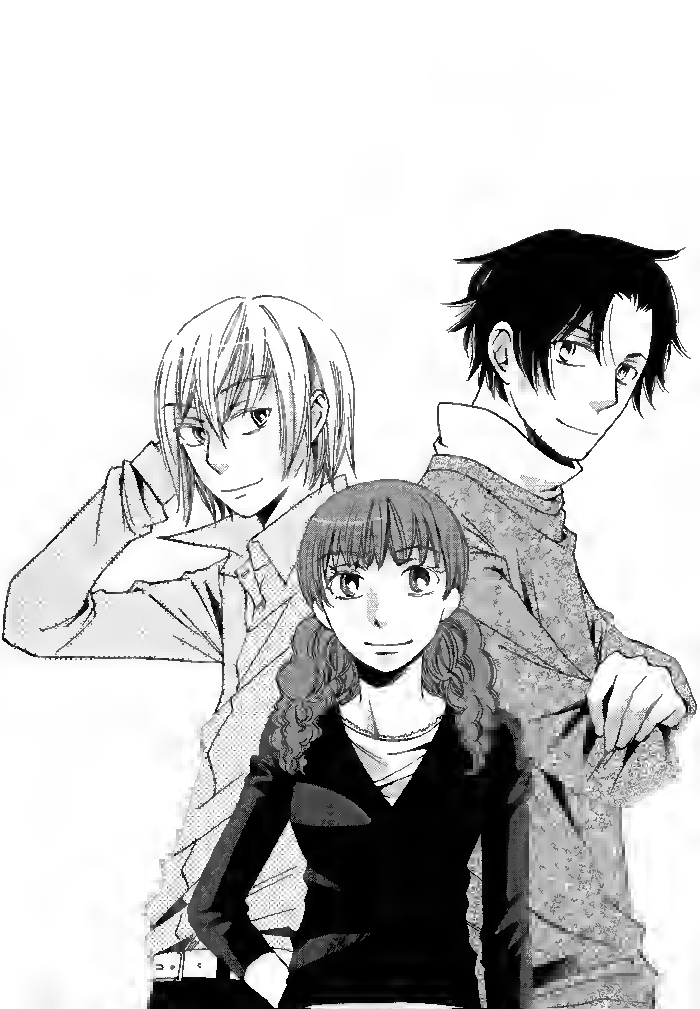
エリアスは若き天才戯手です。ちょっとこの子の存在は私の演味丸出しなのですが。まだパリパリのボーイソプラノです。
公演の時に演る演演が電吵になってしまったのが悔まれます
ああ。
おとなしい子にしようかと演っていたのですが、ものすごく演極的な子になってしまいました。気の強い子です。
演で体力を演う事門筋、しょっちゅう充電が必要そうなのでキィルとエリアスは苦労しそうだなぁと、ぼんやり演っている作演です。

キィルは優しいお兄さん的に萌えたかったキャラです。癒まれたら断れないようなちょっとお人好しの。専門は精神の何か研究　というアバウトな頭脳ですが、キノコ研究しているアレクシの先輩にあたります。保健様でバイトもしていて、保健様にしょっちゅう出入りしているラエルとも顔見知り。薄汚れた白衣で図書にこもってるのが好き　そうな、やはり地雷な子です。

真空融接
4章



Dear Mother and Father.
How have you been?
I'm doing pretty good.
Since coming here
I've made some friends,
and every day's been a
lot of fun.
Do you
remember what I
told you about them
last time?
When I first trans-
ferred over, I was a little
bewildered, but now I'm
completely used to how
people live around here.

Not being from around here, I don't understand it all that well but
The people in this country are put into sets of 'suppliers' and 'receivers.'
The suppliers make power inside their bodies...
And then the receivers take it into themselves for sustenance.
I never really know where to rest my eyes...
As always, whenever they're charging... (that's what they call the power exchange.)
It also seems like if they don't take the power from the suppliers, the supplier can get really weak, too.

Since I came here on scholarship, I have to write a report about this country before I get back, but...
Since what they call 'charging' is what we call a 'kiss.'
There's still so much I don't understand
Whoa
I'm sorry I wasn't able to celebrate the New Year together with you. I think I'll be able to come home this spring.
My love to everyone, Hannes.
THE MAIL BOX IS COVERED IN SNOW...

Where am I supposed to put the letter in...
Ack- it's cold
Kya!
ドサ
OUCH ...
Someone from outside the school
THANKS IT'S JUST MY LUCK! I FINALLY TRY COMING DOWN HERE AND THE WHOLE PLACE IS COVERED IN SNOW!
ARE YOU OK?
HEY, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I'M FOURTEEN NOW... THOUGH SINCE I'M AN EXCHANGE STUDENT I'M ONE GRADE LOWER THAN I SHOULD BE.
OH, SO YOU MUST BE IN THE SAME GRADE AS HIM THEN!
HIM?
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW RAEL, WOULD YOU?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU KNOW WHERE HIS DORM IS, THEN?
THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE SO BIG. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I COME HERE, I ALWAYS GET LOST.
REALLY? GREAT!
OH, YEAH. WE'RE PRETTY GOOD FRIENDS.

ALEXI... I WARNED YOU ABOUT GETTING SICK LIKE THIS.
AND YET SOMEHOW YOU STILL MANAGE TO DO IT...
I HEARD SEMPAI COUGHING EARLIER
THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE IT CAME FROM
Gah! At this rate I'm going to be stuck getting sick with you!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT WHEN I'M LOCKING LIPS WITH YOU EVERY DAY!
So STAY AWAY FROM ME THEN
DON'T TALK SO LOUD MY HEAD IS POUNDING

I'M GOING TO THE MEDICAL BUILDING TO GET SOME MEDICINE.
NOT THAT ANY COLD MEDICINE IS GOING TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT AT THIS POINT.
RAEL...
WHILE YOU'RE SICK...
I'M ONLY LETTING YOU CHARGE ONCE PER DAY!

YOU MEAN RAEL?
SO HOW'S HE DOING HERE?
YEAH HE DOESN'T REALLY TELL ME THESE THINGS.
Probably shouldn't say all I ever see him doing is doting over his partner
..I GUESS HE'S BEEN REALLY GOOD?
IN THIS COUNTRY, KIDS GET PUT INTO NURSERIES BEFORE THEY TURN FOUR.
AND THEN WE'VE GOT THE PARTNER'S SCHEDULE TO THINK ABOUT, TOO.
SO THEY CAN'T REALLY STAY AND VISIT HOME FOR TOO LONG, EITHER.
AND SINCE NOW AS STUDENTS THEY'VE GOT TO LIVE IN THE DORMITORIES. WE DON'T HAVE MANY CHANCES TO SEE EACH OTHER.

RAEL.. HE'S REALLY NICE, EVEN TO AN EXCHANGE STUDENT LIKE ME
WE INVITED HIS PARTNER TO COME ALONG WITH HIM, BUT THEY SAID THEY WEREN'T COMING
HE'S A REALLY GOOD GUY
IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND MY PLACE HERE.
YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?
THAT'S GREAT!
SHE'S SO CUTE!
She looks kinda like Rael Maybe she's his sister or his cousin

WELL JUST IN CASE I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO REDUCE THE FEVER
IF HE STARTS SWEATING, MAKE SURE HE CHANGES HIS CLOTHES.
GO TO THE DINING HALL AND GET THEM TO MAKE SOME HOT SOUP FOR YOU.
Thank you
IF HE'S GOT A COLD, SOME GINGER SOUP WOULD DO BETTER THAN ANY MEDICINE.
OH
IF IT GETS SERIOUS, TAKE HIM IN FOR A CHECKUP WITH THE DOCTOR, ALRIGHT?
LIKE HE'D MAKE IT OVER HERE IN THIS SNOW!
BUT YEAH, OK
HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR, KEEL!

SIR, MY FRIEND'S GOTTEN A LITTLE SICK
DO YOU HAVE ANY POWDERED SOUP I COULD TAKE TO HIM?
OH MY IS IT YOUR PARTNER? WE'LL HAVE TO FIX HIM UP SOON THEN OR YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOUP, I'VE ALREADY BROUGHT ALEXI'S FAVORITE
Wa!
HE ALWAYS INFECTS ME BEFORE HE GETS BETTER EITHER WAY

I'M HERE BECAUSE I CAME TO GET YOU GUYS!
BUT WHY ARE YOU...
LONG TIME NO SEE!
Floran!?
BECAUSE IF I DIDN'T COME AND GET YOU, THEN YOU'D BE STAYING HERE ALL NEW YEARS FROM SOME GOD-KNOWS REASON!
FOR A PARENT, THERE IS SIMPLY NO GREATER SADNESS THAN THIS!
WELL SORRY
SO? WHAT'S THE EXCUSE THIS TIME? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING IT
...
WE DIDN'T COME BECAUSE ALEXI WAS SICK
He even brought Gil with him
HEY PUT OUT THE CIGARETTE!

Eh...!?
ばちっ
What was that? It's so noisy
ゴゴゴゴゴ
INDEED IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD FROM YOU. THOUGH AS TO YOUR QUESTION, I COULD ASK THE SAME OF YOU?
THOUGH I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHY IT IS YOU WOULD BE HERE NOW?
IT'S CERTAINLY BEEN A WHILE...

OH? HOW VERY UNEXPECTED.
I CAME HERE SO THAT I COULD TAKE RAEL AND ALEXI HOME WITH ME.
WE CAME HERE FOR THAT VERY REASON AS WELL.
THOSE TWO ARE COMING TO OUR HOUSE THIS YEAR!
BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP BUT RECALL THAT JUST A WEEK AGO ALEXI SENT US A LETTER SAYING HE AND RAEL WOULD BE STAYING AT SCHOOL FOR THE NEW YEAR!
IS THAT WHAT THEY TOLD YOU!?

...
Would you shut up!?
Alex! Long time no see, man!
F... FLORAN ?!
!!
...WELL I GUESS YOU MAY HAVE FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW, HANNES, BUT...

It's nice to meet you!
Nice to meet you.
AND THIS IS ALEXI'S DAD FLORAN. HE'S A CHEF.
THIS IS MY MOM CLAIRE. SHE WORKS FROM HOME AS A TRANS-LATOR.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!
She's his mother? Not his sister!?
She's so young!
married woman!
IT'S... IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU.
AND THIS IS FLORAN'S PARTNER, GIL.
Yo.

IF YOU'RE SICK THEN YOU SHOULD HEAL UP IN OUR HOUSE! IT'S SO MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE THAN A DORM
...WE'RE SORRY YOU ALL CAME OUT HERE TO GET US, BUT..
ALEXI'S GOT A COLD SO HE CAN'T LEAVE...
WELL WHAT ABOUT HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THIS!?
RAEL, I'M NOT REALLY THAT SICK YOU CAN GO HOME WITH YOUR MOM.
OUR FAMILY'S PLANNING A BIG NEW YEAR'S PARTY WITH EVERYONE!
SO ARE WE!
BUT IF I DO THAT, YOU WON'T GET ANY POWER TILL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
WHEN YOU'RE ALREADY WEAK FROM BEING SICK THAT'S...
AH... IT'S SO NOISY. THIS IS WHY I HATE FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS.

WELL, HOW ABOUT I GIVE HIM SOME? WHAT DO YOU SAY, ALEX!?
DON'T EVEN JOKE! AND STOP TOUCHING ME!
Oh So his dad's a supplier
ANYWAY, THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO GET OVER THIS WITHOUT MAKING YOU SICK.
JUST GO, OK? YOU'RE STILL HEALTHY, AND I'LL BE FINE TILL THEN.
DON'T YOU WORRY, RAEL. MY SOUP WILL CURE THAT COLD COMPLETELY. BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE CHARGING YOUR HEART OUT.
HEY DO YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO TACT?
Gah It's so hard to make both of them happy
Every New Year they want us to come to their own house
Brought a thermos.

I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THIS. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, ALEX! AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE.
YEAH, HAPPY NEW YEAR, YOU TWO.
ALRIGHT.. I'LL BE HOME IN THE MORNING, DAY AFTER TOMORROW
SEE YOU LATER, HANNES. HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WIT
PECK
EI:
?!
One of their customers?
ALEX!.
YOU'LL CATCH THE COLD. JUST STAY AWAY.
HE'S SURE IN A BAD MOOD

YOU TOO GIL!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, RAEL.
AH! FOR YOU, A FEAST WORTHY OF MY SKILL!
WELL, HAPPY NEW YEAR, FLORAN.
YOU'LL COOK FOR ME AGAIN SOMETIME, RIGHT?
JUST GO HOME ALREADY! AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE WELL ENOUGH TO GET HOME THIS YEAR ANYWAY!
SO I'LL GO HEAT UP THE SOUP IN THE KITCHEN FOR YOU THEN
It's the kind you like

BEFORE YOU HAD TO FINISH UP A REPORT FOR SCHOOL
AND THEN BEFORE THAT YOU SAID YOU HAD TO GO TO A FRIEND'S PARTY ...I BELIEVE THOSE WERE THE REASONS GIVEN FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS?
YOU'RE SUCH A LIAR, ALEXI.
.....
Why you
ORNERY, AREN'T YOU?
SHUT UP!

MAN, THOUGH. I WAS SURPRISED BY RAEL'S MOM!
Y'll Σ.
SHE WAS SO YOUNG. YOUNG, AND REALLY NICE!
AND YOUR DAD'S A PRETTY INTERESTING GUY, HUH? YOU LOOK ALIKE, BUT YOU'RE COMPLETE OPPOSITES.
WELL THANKS FOR THAT, ANYWAY. I GUESS I GET MY PERSONALITY FROM MY MOM'S SIDE
YOUR MOM MUST BE WAITING FOR YOU, TOO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME?
I DON'T HAVE A MOM.
AS I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED, MY DAD'S PARTNER IS A GUY
I'VE NO IDEA WHERE I EVEN CAME FROM

WHEN YOUR PARTNER'S THE SAME SEX, YOU CAN STILL MARRY SOMEONE ELSE, RIGHT?
SAY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING
YEAH IF I GO HOME, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE THERE BUT FLORAN AND GIL
..SERIOUSLY?
I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE BY GOING OVER THERE ALL-MALE HOUSEHOLDS ARE SO SUFFOCATING
NO WAY!
THE PERSON WE'RE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES WITH IS DECIDED WHEN WE'RE KIDS! AND THERE'D BE NO WAY OF KEEPING THE SUPERFICIAL RELATIONSHIP STUFF SEPARATE FROM WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT!
YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONSHIPS ANY WORSE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE!?
MIRAGE ISN'T PRACTICED IN THIS COUNTRY.

Uh
SAME SEX PAIRS GET PUT TOGETHER OFTEN ENOUGH, BUT THEY'RE STILL DEFINITELY THE MINORITY
SOMETIMES IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOME CRUEL JOKE BY GOD.
THOUGH IT DOES MAKE HAVING KIDS HARD FOR SAME SEX PARTNERS LIKE RAEL AND ME
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS..
IT'S LIKE AFTER YOU TURN THREE OR FOUR, EVERYTHING'S BEEN DECIDED FROM THEN ON.
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF COMPLETELY NORMAL OPPOSITE SEX PARTNERS
WHO CAN'T MANAGE TO HAVE ANY KIDS EITHER
AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN GO OFF AND HAVE A KID WITH YOUR LOVER, EITHER
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, YOUR PARTNER COMES FIRST AND FOREMOST

...HEY, WHY DON'T I TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU CAN PUT IN YOUR REPORT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT SENSATION GIVES THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY THE MOST PLEASURE?
EH?
CHARGING WITH YOUR PARTNER.
SO YOU GET IT NOW, RIGHT?
WHY IT IS OUR PARTNERS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO US?

OH! I DID TRY KISSING RAEL ONCE TO SEE IF I COULD UNDERSTAND!
IT FELT REALLY GOOD!
Even if I couldn't take in any power!
THAT FEELING OF COMPLETE CONTENTMENT WHEN YOU'RE TRANSFERRING POWER WITH YOUR PARTNER
I GUESS IT'S NOT REALLY SOMETHING AN OUTSIDER LIKE YOU COULD UNDERSTAND, ANYWAY.
SO IT WAS YOU!
H-HEY NOW.
IT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
I GUESS OVER HERE, NO ONE REALLY GOES AROUND KISSING PEOPLE BESIDES THEIR PARTNER
THOUGH WHERE I COME FROM, KISSING SOMEONE ON THE LIPS IS A WAY TO SHOW LOVE. .

IN THIS COUNTRY, WHEN YOU WANT TO SHOW AFFECTION FOR YOUR PARTNER OR A FRIEND,
THE CUSTOM IS TO KISS THEM ON THE CHEEK.
OUTSIDE OF CHARGING, WE DON'T USUALLY KISS ONE ANOTHER ON THE LIPS
BECAUSE TO US, THE LIPS ARE SACRED!
HEY ALEXI, HAVE SOME OF THIS
I brought the whole pot.
WHEN YOU WANT TO SHOW AFFECTION TO A LOVER,
YOU JUST PUT ALL YOUR FEELINGS INTO A KISS ON THE CHEEK
WARM SOUP WILL MAKE THAT COLD GO AWAY BEFORE YOU KNOW IT

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT COMING HOME, WE MAY AS WELL GET GOING.
OUR VISITOR'S PERMITS ONLY LAST TILL FIVE, SO WE'D BETTER HEAD OUT SOON.
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHERE YOU GET THAT STUBBORN STREAK FROM. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, ALEX!.
..I'LL WALK YOU TO THE ENTRANCE.
OH? HOW GENEROUS.

HE'S OUT SHOPPING. WE HAD TO GET EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR NEW YEAR'S.
WHERE'S DAD?
OH! OVER HERE, PHIL!
HEY THERE, RAEL. IT SURE HAS BEEN A WHILE. YOU DOING OK? LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE TALLER!
YEAH
I'M JUST EXHAUSTED
HEY! CAN'T YOU AT LEAST MAKE IT TILL WE GET HOME?
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO DRIVE THE WHOLE WAY TO GET THERE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GET EVERYTHING WE NEEDED FOR DINNER! DID YOU SERIOUSLY PLAN TO MAKE ALL THIS?
YOU SURE DID BUY A LOT, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT RAEL HASN'T BEEN HOME IN AGES AND IF ANY OF HIS FRIENDS CAME ALONG THEY'D EAT EVERYTHING FOR SURE!

OH!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY HOPELESS!
DAD... MOM...
I'M SORRY IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF I DON'T GO HOME, AFTER ALL.

WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, ALEXI. YOU NEED TO COME SEE US THIS SPRING.
HAPPY NEW YEAR.
SEE YOU LATER. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

SINCE RAEL'S GONE HOME, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING THE NEW YEAR ALL ALONE, AREN'T YOU?
IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME YOURSELF! YOU'RE GOING AWAY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, AREN'T YOU!?
SORRY, BUT I'M STUCK HERE, TOO
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO BE TAKING TRIPS OUT OF THE COUNTRY EVERY VACATION
GUESS I'LL BE STAYING AROUND TO KEEP POOR OLD ALEX! COMPANY, THEN?
NOPE YOU'RE WAY TOO NOISY GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND WRITE YOUR REPORT OR SOMETHING!
I'M GOING BACK TO BED!

We've never really said as much to one another, but it was like we had some sort of understanding...
That after all these years the other's presence has become irreplaceable to us
Now that I think about it, for years now I've spent every single New Year with Alexi
I guess it must have been because of that unconscious expectation that's grown between us
I felt so ashamed and lonely...
When I looked at Alexi or my parents...

I'M BACK!
ALEX!! HANNES!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?
NO. I DECIDED NOT TO GO HOME THIS YEAR.
NOT IF IT'S GOING TO BE WITHOUT YOU!
YOU DID?
BUT CLAIRE.. AND EVEN YOU...
WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING HOME?

I GUESS IT'S NOT SO HIGH
HOW'S YOUR FEVER?
I'D BE NO GOOD RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITHOUT MY PARTNER!
YOU GOT BETTER IN JUST ONE EVENING!
THE THREE OF US SHOULD GO SEE THE NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN FIREWORKS TOGETHER!
BUT I'M STILL TOO .?

ALL BETTER NOW?

HEY, FLORAN?
Claire? How's it going?
I THOUGHT MAYBE SINCE WE GOT DUMPED BY RAEL, WE COULD HAVE SOME FUN THIS NEW YEAR WITH OUR FELLOW DUMPEE INSTEAD?
WE'VE GOT MORE FOOD THAN WE CAN HANDLE OVER HERE
I MAY JUST TAKE YOU UP ON THAT
I SUPPOSE GIL IS INVITED, TOO?
SO HOW'S PHIL?
HEHEH. WELL, AFTER THOSE PARTNERS GET CHOSEN,
PARENTS CAN SAY GOODBYE TO BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THEIR KIDS LIVES
THOSE KIDS SURE ARE MISSING OUT, PASSING UP SUCH A FINE WINING EXPERIENCE!
I've got some really good wine I've been saving up for today I'll bring it over
HE'LL BE JUST GREAT WHEN HE FINDS OUT WE'VE GOT MORE DRINKING BUDDIES

TELL ME ABOUT IT! YOU KNOW, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS,
WE MAY AS WELL INVITE EVERYONE ELSE AND THROW OURSELVES A PARTY!

So how was the New Year's party?
I went with my friends to see the countdown fireworks.
The fireworks were gorgeous, and the New Year left a really strong impression on me.
Rael said we should all spend the New Year together next year, too.
But I'm sure by then, I'll have already gone back home to you

Since staying together is what partners do.
Still, I'm sure at least those two will be together, for next year – and for plenty of time after that.
I think I may be a little jealous of the people in this country, always having someone they're fated to spend the rest of their lives with
With lots of kisses, Hannes

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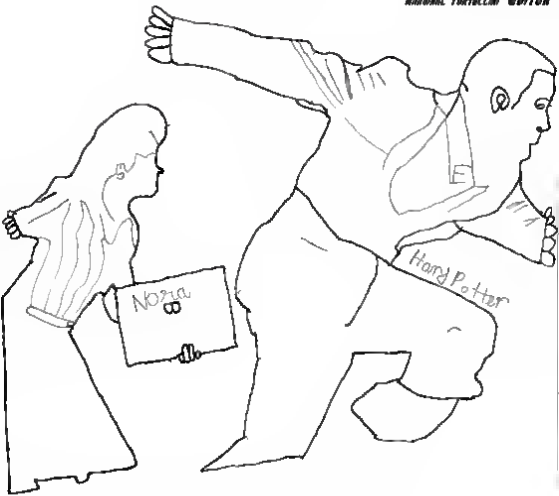

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Gil!~
♥
真空融接EXTRA
....
...SO IT'S ANOTHER CAKE?
COME ON... ISN'T SUNDAY SUPPOSED TO BE THE DAY OF REST?
TRY A BIT OF THIS FOR ME. THOUGH I DOUBT THERE'S MUCH QUESTION OF MY SKILLS.
WELL IT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO. WITH ANOTHER BIRTHDAY COMING UP.
WE NEED TO CELEBRATE WITH THE BEST CAKE EVER.

WHAT? BUT IT'S A WHOLE MONTH FROM NOW...
WE SHOULD RESERVE OURSELVES A ROOM FOR THE PARTY! I'LL BE USING THE WHOLE CAFETERIA WHEN I'M MAKING THE FOOD.
Huh? It's your birthday.
WELL, STOP USING ME AS YOUR LAB RAT, AND WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT THIS TIME, ANYWAY?
Huh. It's really good.
Mm-hmm?
ゴクリ
YOU SURE ARE TIGHT WITH THE LUNCH LADY, AREN'T YOU?
And you're making me test it all?
THAT'S HOW I'LL MAKE SURE IT TURNS OUT GREAT!★
YEAH, WHATEVER YOU SAY. YOU SURE ARE GETTING TO BE A REALLY GOOD COOK, AREN'T YOU?
WHEN I FINALLY HAVE A KID, I'LL MAKE THEM A BIRTHDAY CAKE EVERY YEAR!
I'll keep making them for you, too.

Who said I was making one with you?
UH... YOU DO KNOW THE TWO OF US CAN'T HAVE KIDS, RIGHT?
...EVERY THING YOU SAY IS SO RIDICULOUS.
GIL.
HM?

You taste like cake!
.....
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
MAYBE IF EVERY TIME YOU CHARGE OFF ME IT TASTES LIKE CAKE, YOU'LL START LIKING SWEET THINGS EVEN MORE!
BUT EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING I SMELL LIKE VANILLA ESSENCE.
And I'm always eating your pastries.
AND BECAUSE OF YOU THE ENTIRE ROOM SMELLS LIKE SWEET THINGS

Alright!
Absolutely delicious!
If I don't say so myself!
YOU MADE ALL OF ALEXI'S FAVORITES, DIDN'T YOU?
Mumm, mumm.
WELL I BARELY GET THE CHANCE TO COOK FOR HIM ANYMORE. I DID GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
OH, A BIRTHDAY CAKE
YEP! ALEXI AND RAEL ARE COMING OVER TODAY, SO I'M VERY BUSY! HERE, HAVE A BITE.

IT'S MY SON'S BIRTHDAY, AFTER ALL.
JUST TODAY SHOULD BE OK.
It's closed today!
WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP?
IT'S CLOSED BECAUSE YOU CLOSED IT. YOU'RE AN AWFULLY NEGLIGENT CHEF.

FLORAN ISN'T REALLY A PASTRY CHEF, BUT WHENEVER HE MAKES THEM FOR ALEXI, THEY'RE REALLY GOOD!
I ALREADY TOLD HIM WE WERE COMING OVER WHY DID HE HAVE TO SEND ALL THIS HERE?
WOW.
IT'S REALLY GOOD! ♥
IF YOU LIKE THEM THAT MUCH, DON'T YOU ENJOY SHARING IT WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
DO YOU NOT LIKE SWEET THINGS, ALEXI? BUT IT'S SO GOOD...
NO, THEY'RE HIS FAVORITE! I THINK LIKING SWEET THINGS IS IN HIS BLOOD OR SOMETHING!
BUT I DON'T EVEN WANT ANY... WHEN WE GET HOME FLORAN WILL HAVE MADE SO MUCH I'LL GET SICK OF IT ANYWAY.
WHY ARE YOU ANSWERING FOR ME?

THANKS FOR THE FOOD. YOU GUYS HAVE A SAFE TRIP.
Go ahead and take the rest
It's so good.
WE'D BETTER GET GOING WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR THE TRAIN
OK.
SEE YOU MONDAY, EVERY-ONE!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF BIRTHDAY CAKE FLORAN MADE THIS TIME

AFTER THEY'VE EATEN, A VISUAL REPRESENTATION
WE'LL PROBABLY BE FED SENSELESS LIKE ALWAYS, AND IT'S NOT REALLY PLEASANT CH'RGING LIKE THAT,...
BUT THE BOOK IS SO GOOD, AFTER ALL.
Ugh..
OH.
LET'S CHARGE BEFORE WE GO IN. WITH ALL THE EXCITEMENT WE PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AWAY TOGETHER UNTIL LATE.
OK?

!!
OH!
I CAN SMELL CAKE! LOOKS LIKE FLORAN'S WORKING HARD!
LOOKS LIKE IT
Ok! Today, we start! Make sure to come home at least five rounds better!
Er...
Come on, you know you love it!

◆初出一覧◆

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真空融接 4章	／MAGAZINE ZERO Vol.45（'05年冬号）掲載
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この本を読んでのご意見、ご感
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